The Editor went on to blame medical professionals’ “lack of interest…diligently, much valuable time would be lost and vision sacrificed.”

In “Chronic Cases and Irregular Practitioners,” the Editor decried the claims of faith-healers. Even if the healer’s care didn’t directly harm the patient, it might deter him from seeking more effective care. “For example, an individual suffering, without knowing it, from chronic simple glaucoma, will experience ‘good and bad’ days.” Should such a case follow the advice as given by this clergyman not to expect an immediate cure, but to continue to the faith and to pray, it might deter him from seeking more effective care. The Editor went on to blame medical professionals’ “lack of interest in chronic diseases.” The physician, after the diagnosis, often drops the case “because, forsooth, he has no cure.” The Editor: “So much can be done in incurable cases by relieving symptoms, and physicians fail in their duty when they coldly disregard the chronic case and pass it on to whatsoever irregular healer may be encountered.”

### Fifty Years Ago, July 1960

Robert H. Felix, MD, Director, National Institute of Mental Health, NIH, gave the Ninth Annual Arthur Hiler Ruggles Oration: “Recent Developments in Mental Health Research.” He credited Congress for major advances in mental health, especially Congressman John Fogarty (D-RI), “…who, with great wisdom and foresight has consistently supported mental health activities.” Dr. Felix cited the improved understanding of the brain and central nervous system, the trends in psychological and sociological approaches, research in the process of aging, and early diagnostic programs.

In “Hospital Admission X-Rays in Detection of Tuberculosis,” Theodore L. Badger, MD, Harvard Medical School, recounted statistics: in 1956, in the United States, there were 14,000 deaths from tuberculosis, 69,000 new cases, and a reservoir of 400,000 cases. The reservoir included “recalcitrants.” “While these people will not report their TB, they will be hospitalized for cardiac or other disease, and a hospital admission x-ray will pick them up as tuberculosis cases.” He judged these x-rays “more than twice as productive as mass community screening.” In Boston, 75% of all reportable TB cases were reported from hospital x-ray programs.

In “Isolation Perfusion of Body Regions in the treatment of Cancer: Experimental and Clinical Observations,” Lester L. Vargas, MD, William P. Corvese, MD, Clarence H. Soderberg, MD, John D. Pitts, MD, Thomas Forsythe, MD, and Herbert Fanger, MD, used two groups of “unselected mongrel dogs.” They concluded: “Regional perfusion of the pelvis or of an extremity with an extracorporeal circulation affords a method of utilizing high doses of cytotoxic drugs with minimal danger of systemic poisoning.”

In “Summary of Medical, Public Health and Allied Legislation before the RI General Assembly, January Session, 1960,” the Committee on Public Laws of the RIMS noted that the General Assembly passed, and the Governor vetoed, “a proposal for a legislative commission to study the need for a medical school, with a $5,000 appropriation.”